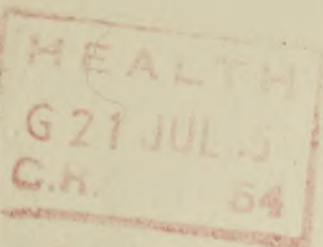


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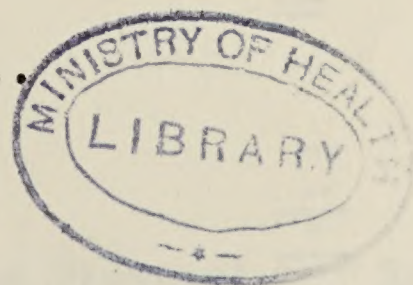
M E D I C A L O F F I C E R O F H E A L T H

for the

Y E A R E N D I N G

31st. D E C E M B E R, 1954.

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OAKHAM URBAN DISTRICT COUNCIL.

A N N U A L R E P O R T.

of the

MEDICAL OFFICER OF HEALTH.

1954.

Mr. Chairman, Ladies and Gentlemen,

I have the honour to present herewith my sixteenth Annual Report dealing with matters within my responsibility regarding public health and preventive medicine.

GENERAL STATISTICS

Area (in acres)	2,250
Registrar General's estimate of population..	4,070
Number of inhabited houses at end of 1954...	1,310
Rateable Value at 30th. November, 1954.....	£28,891
Nett product of a penny rate	£ 114

VITAL STATISTICS

	<u>Males</u>	<u>Females</u>	<u>Total</u>
Live Births- Legitimate	37	33	70
Illegitimate	<u>1</u>	<u>1</u>	<u>2</u>
	<u>38</u>	<u>34</u>	<u>72</u>
Still Births- Legitimate	-	-	-
Illegitimate	<u>-</u>	<u>-</u>	<u>-</u>
	<u>-</u>	<u>-</u>	<u>-</u>
	<u>Rate for District</u>	<u>Rate for England</u>	
		<u>and Wales</u>	
Birth Rate	17.7	15.2	
Death Rate	13.5	11.3	
Infant Mortality Rate per 1,000 live births.	14.3	25.5	

The comparatively high Death Rate is again largely accounted for by deaths in elderly people due to disease of heart and arteries. Approximately one-third of these are in the age group 80 years and over.

CAUSES OF DEATH.

	<u>Males.</u>	<u>Females.</u>
Tuberculosis respiratory	1	-
Other infective and parasitic disease	-	1
Malignant neoplasm stomach	-	2
Malignant neoplasm breast	-	1
Other malignant & lymphatic neoplasms	5	-
Diabetes	-	-
Vascular lesions of nervous system	11	6
Coronary disease, angina	5	5
Hypertension with heart disease	1	-
Other heart disease	9	9
Other circulatory disease	7	7
Pneumonia	-	-
Bronchitis	4	1
Other diseases of Respiratory System	-	1
Ulcer of Stomach & Duodenum	1	-
Gastritis, Enteritis & Diarrhoea	-	-
Nephritis & Nephrosis	-	-
Hyperplasia of Prostate	-	-
Congenital malformations	-	-
Other defined and ill-defined diseases	-	1
Motor vehicle accidents	-	1
All other accidents.	-	1
Suicide	1	-
	<u>45</u>	<u>35</u>

GENERAL PROVISION OF HEALTH SERVICES FOR THE AREA.

1. PUBLIC HEALTH OFFICERS OF THE AUTHORITY.

Medical Officer of Health - J. Young, M.B., Ch.B.,
D.P.H. Camb.

The Medical Officer of Health acts for the
Leicestershire & Rutland Combined Districts in which
this District is included.

Sanitary Inspector - H. Tabberer, Sanitary Inspector's
Certificate Royal Sanitary Institute.

The Sanitary Inspector is also Surveyor to the Council.

2. LABORATORY FACILITIES.

The following examinations in your area were carried out
during the year at the Public Health Laboratory, Leicester.

Faeces	-	43
Urine	-	2
Blood	-	2
Nasal Swabs	-	2
Throat Swabs	-	109
Nose & Throat Swabs	-	5
Vaginal Swab	-	1
Swab from wound	-	1
Water	-	9
Margarine	-	1
Cream	-	1

The good co-operation with the Public Health Laboratory
Service continued during the year and the assistance given
has been of great value.

SANITARY CIRCUMSTANCES OF THE AREA.

Bacteriological Chemical

(i) WATER.

Number of Samples taken for Analysis :-

(a) from wells.	2	-
(b) from piped supply	6	-
(c) at sources of public supply	1	-

Results of samples taken :-

(a) from wells - unsatisfactory	-	1	-
satisfactory	-	1	-
(b) from piped supply -			
unsatisfactory	-	2	-
satisfactory	-	4	-
(c) at sources - unsatisfactory	-	-	-
satisfactory	-	1	-

The unsatisfactory well had not been used for drinking water and is not now used. The satisfactory one was a new bore as an auxiliary supply to a factory. The two unsatisfactory mains samples were somewhat late in reaching the laboratory.

The public supply was restricted for most of the year, but was fully restored on the 9th. November.

The Council's water undertaking extends to all but 23 occupied house in the Urban District, and supplies are given to Braunston, and parts of Ashwell, Barleythorpe and Burley in the Rural District of Oakham.

16 of the 23 houses referred to are situated where there is a main and it is reasonable to expect them to connect.

During the year a "dead end" of a 3" main in Church Street was linked with a 4" main in Station Road. This gives better circulation, more equal pressures and an improved flow in case of fire.

Over 98% of the houses and of the population of the Urban District are supplied by the Council. In some cases the water is not laid into the houses, and in a few cases, one tap is shared by two or more houses. The number of such cases has declined during recent years. There are no public standpipes.

The Council has arranged for a supply of water from the Oakham Rural District Council's Regional Scheme when it is available. The Rural District Council will also relieve the Urban District Council of some of the Burley and Ashwell consumers.

A new bore was brought into use at Braunston in January 1954. The fairly constant yield is 6,000 gallons per day.

(ii) DRAINAGE & SEWERAGE.

There are 57 houses not connected to the public sewer, but to cesspools or septic tanks and filters, of which there are 24. The Council have asked the Consultant Engineers for a report on the sewerage of the town, particularly to provide for some expansion as most sewerage and readily sewerable sites have been developed.

(iii) CLOSET ACCOMMODATION.

Total number in the District at the end of 1954 :-

(1)	Privies.	-
(2)	Pail Closets	28
(3)	Water Closets	approx. 1,750

Number of pail closets converted to water carriage system during the year None.

At 20 of these 28 pail closets, either water mains or sewers are not available within the distance laid down in the Act. Some of the remaining 8 are at old houses which are likely to be demolished when the housing situation is eased. The Council intend to lay sewers which will open up more land for housing and enable 8 pail closets to be converted and several cesspools to be abolished.

(iv) PUBLIC CLEANSING.

One man is engaged part time on the Refuse Tip. The tip is kept practically free from rats and no insect nuisance occurs. The Council now use a 10 cubic yard Dennis petrol-driven refuse collecting vehicle, and the work is done in 5 days each week.

The small quantity of nightsoil is tipped at the Sewage Disposal Works.

(v) SMOKE.

During the year the Gas Works went out of production. Gas is now supplied from Melton Mowbray. The only big chimney in the town now in use is at the Infirmary.

SANITARY INSPECTION OF THE AREA.

The particulars given under this heading are for all purposes including particulars given elsewhere in this Report.

Total number of complaints received	20
Total number of defects or nuisances discovered arising out of complaints.....	19

<u>Nature of Inspection.</u>	<u>Number of Inspections and Revisits.</u>
Dwelling houses (all purposes) ..	220
Tents, Vans, etc., ...	2
Slaughter houses	10
Food premises	45
Dairies	10
Offensive Trades	-
Animal keeping	4
Factories etc., ...	20
Shops	20
Other premises	35
Water Wastage	40

Only one small Slaughter house is in use in the district.

N O T I C E S.

<u>Preliminary</u>	<u>Housing</u>	<u>Other</u>
Outstanding on 1st. January 1954..	1	-
Issued during the year	4	10
Complied with during year	3	9
Outstanding 31st. December, 1954..	2	1
Statutory action	1	1

Statutory

Outstanding 1st. January 1954	-	1
Issued during the year	1	-
Complied with during year	1	1
Outstanding 31st. December 1954..	-	-

In addition 12 Demolition Orders were made.

Most of the work is done by letter, interview or telephone, and few formal notices, either preliminary or statutory, are used. Some nuisances, such as blockages in drains, are abated by Council men, this being considered the quickest method.

CONTROL OF RATS.

The Council in conjunction with the Rural District Councils of Oakham, Barnack and Ketton employ a Pest Control Officer. All complaints are promptly dealt with and there is little evidence of rats in the town.

ERADICATION OF BED BUGS.

Precautionary treatment was given to one house during the year, but no new cases arose.

SWIMMING BATHS AND POOLS OPEN TO THE PUBLIC.

The swimming bath is owned by the School Trustees and loaned to the Council during the summer holidays. Six inspections were made during the season

INSPECTION & SUPERVISION OF FOOD.

MILK SUPPLY.

At the end of the year there were four distributors and four premises registered, a new dairy shop having been opened. Ten inspections of premises were made.

No action was found necessary under Regulation 20 - Milk and Dairies Regulations 1949. All milk sold in the district now is tuberculin tested, T.T.pasteurised, sterilised or pasteurised,

Dealers and Supplementary Licences for retailing specially designated milk were issued during the year as follows :-

<u>Tuberculin Tested.</u>	<u>Pasteurised.</u>	<u>Sterilised.</u>
4	3	1

ICE CREAM.

No ice-cream is now made in Oakham, but 16 premises are registered for its sale. All of these premises have been inspected at least once during the year.

MEAT SHOP, MEAT STORES, ETC.,

Number of inspections 15

A Butcher's Shop was much improved during the year.

FOOD PREMISES IN THE URBAN DISTRICT IN DECEMBER CONSISTED OF :-

6 Cafes and a Dairy Shop.
13 Licensed Premises (not including Clubs).
13 Retail Grocers etc.,
4 Butchers.
5 Greengrocers.
2 Fishmongers.
4 Bakers and pastrycooks.
5 Sweets etc.,

Two new grocery shops were opened during the year.

Number of inspections 36

PREMISES REGISTERED UNDER SECTION 14 FOR PREPARATION AND SALE OF SAUSAGES, POTTED MEATS AND MEAT PIES. 6

PREPARATION AND SALE OF FISH AND CHIPS..... 1

This shop has been inspected several times during the year. It is well kept and is performing a busy and useful function.

DISPOSAL OF CONDEMNED FOOD.

The small quantities involved are disposed of by :-

- (a) Burning in the boiler at Council Offices.
- (b) Being taken to tip by Refuse Collectors.

18 lbs. imported canned ham
31 lbs. canned tomatoes and
64 lbs. meat were voluntarily surrendered as unfit.

From inspections which I have made with the Sanitary Inspector, I am of opinion that generally speaking the food Shops in the Town are well conducted with due regard to hygiene.

H O U S I N G .

1. INSPECTION OF DWELLING HOUSES DURING THE YEAR

- (a) (i) Total number of dwelling houses inspected for housing defects (under Public Health or Housing Acts) 135
- (ii) Number of inspections made for the purpose 220
- (b) Number of dwelling houses (included under sub-head (i) above) which were inspected and recorded under the Housing Consolidated Regulations 1925 and 1932 -
- (c) Number of dwelling houses found to be in a state so dangerous or injurious to health as to be unfit for human habitation. 19
- (d) Number of dwelling houses (exclusive of those referred to under the preceding sub-head) found not to be in all respects reasonably fit for human habitation 62

2. REMEDY OF DEFECTS DURING THE YEAR WITHOUT SERVICE OF FORMAL NOTICE.

Number of defective dwelling houses rendered fit in consequence of informal action by the Local Authority or their officers 3

Houses demolished without necessity of Demolition Order (being acquired by the Council as a re-housing site)..... 4
Three more of these will be cleared in 1955.

3. ACTION UNDER STATUTORY POWERS DURING THE YEAR.

Proceedings under Section 11 and 13 of the Housing Act, 1936 :-

Number of dwelling houses in respect of which Demolition Orders were made..... 12

Number of dwelling houses demolished in pursuance of Demolition Orders..... 3

Number of dwelling houses which were rendered fit after service of formal notice under Section 9 of the Housing Act, 1936..... 1

Number of dwelling houses in which defects were remedied after service of formal Notice served under Public Health Act, 1936 -

During the year the Council acquired a small area in Finkey Street, containing 7 old and dilapidated houses, 5 of which were occupied, for the purpose of clearance and re-development. Four families have been moved and four houses demolished during the year. The Council have also acquired another house adjoining this area and propose to erect a block of 8 flats on the site which at one time accommodated 10 houses.

One house only was improved and re-conditioned with the aid of a small grant. Another improvement was started to a house which had been empty for some years. Two houses were in process of improvement without grant.

4. HOUSING ACT, 1936 - PART IV - OVERCROWDING.

(a) Number of dwelling houses known to be overcrowded at the end of 1954 -

(b) Number of families dwelling therein -

(c) Number of persons dwelling therein -

There are a few cases where houses are uncomfortably full, but are not overcrowded by the Standards laid down in the Housing Act, 1936.

One case of overcrowding, involving 9 persons was abated in 1954.

G E N E R A L.

There were, (at 31st. December, 1954) 89 Oakham applicants for Council Houses. 30 of these are sharing houses with parents or others.

There is also a pressing demand for houses from people outside the Urban District.

During the year 44 Council houses and 6 private houses were completed.

At the end of 1954 the Council owned 325 houses, in addition to 10 temporary bungalows rented from the Ministry.

The following table shows housing development in the last 25 years :-

Year	Houses completed Other than by Council.	Council Houses.	
1930	5	3	
1931	2	-	
1932	4	-	
1933	2	24	
1934	10	6	
1935	15	-	
1936	19	12	
1937	10	6	
1938	13	8	
1939	13	-	
1940 - 45	-	-	
1946	-	15	
1947	7	5	
1948	2	27	
1949	16	32	
1950	8	13	
1951	13	37	
1952	11	24	
1953	4	43	
1954	6	44	
TOTAL	160	299	459
AVERAGE FOR 25 YEARS	6	12	18

In addition, there have been conversions and adaptation In the same period there were 75 demolitions. 35% of the houses in the Urban District, are less than 26 years old.

Council Contracts in progress at the end of the year will provide 4 houses only. There were also 15 private houses under construction.

Shortage of developed sites will retard housing progress in 1955.

PREVALENCE OF, AND CONTROL OVER, INFECTIOUS AND
OTHER DISEASES.

(1) Notifiable Diseases (Other than Tuberculosis) during 1954.

<u>Disease.</u>	<u>Total Cases.</u> <u>Notified.</u>	<u>Cases Admitted.</u> <u>to Hospital.</u>	<u>Total</u> <u>Deaths.</u>
Scarlet Fever.	13	-	-
Pneumonia.	7	-	-
Dysentery.	1	-	-

The Scarlet Fever cases were of a mild type, all being nursed at home.

I am pleased to note for the fifth successive year that no case of Diphtheria occurred.

A G E G R O U P

Disease	Under One.	$\frac{1}{2}$	$\frac{2}{3}$	$\frac{3}{4}$	$\frac{4}{5}$	$\frac{5}{10}$	$\frac{10}{15}$	$\frac{15}{20}$	$\frac{20}{35}$	$\frac{35}{45}$	$\frac{45}{65}$	65 and Over.
Scarlet Fever	-	-	-	2	1	8	-	1	1	-	-	-
Pneumonia	-	-	-	-	-	1	-	-	-	2	3	1
Dysentery	-	-	-	-	-	1	-	-	-	-	-	-

(2)

T U B E R C U L O S I S

Age Group.	New Cases				Deaths			
	Pulmonary.		Non-Pulmonary.		Pulmonary.		Non-pulmonary.	
	M	F	M	F	M	F	M	F
Under 5	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
5 - 15	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
15 - 25	-	1	-	-	-	-	-	-
25 - 35	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
35 - 45	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
45 - 55	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
55 - 65	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-

NATIONAL ASSISTANCE ACT, 1948

I am again pleased to report that no action was found necessary during the year.

I have the honour to be,
Your obedient Servant,

JOHN YOUNG.
Medical Officer of Health.

10 High Street,
Melton Mowbray.

